(d) the types of activity on which amount from the Railway safety fund was utilized during the years 2006-07, 2007-08 and 2008-09; and

(e) the total amount collected on passengers ticket under Railway safety fund from the year 2001 to 2008-09?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) Railway Safety Fund has been set up primarily to channelise the Railways' share of the diesel cess and petrol cess, receivable under the Central Road Fund, for road related railway safety works such as construction of road over/under bridges, subways and for the improvement to level crossings including their manning, interlocking etc.

(b) The Railway Safety Fund was created in the year 2001-02.

(c) The total amount received from Ministry of Finance till March 2009 and appropriated to Railway Safety Fund is Rs. 4542.09 crore.

(d) The Fund was utilised for construction of Road Over Bridges, Road Under Bridges, Subways and for the improvement to level crossings including their manning, interlocking etc.

(e) No amount has been collected from passengers ticket for Railway Safety Fund.

Vacancies in Railways

3794. SHRI PRAVEEN RASHTRAPAL: Will the Minister of RAILWAYS be pleased to state:

(a) in view of admission by the Ministry that there were 1,72,444 vacancies in Group A, B, C and D as on 31 March, 2008, whether the Ministry explain the steps taken so far to fill up all these vacancies;

(b) how many such vacancies were filled during 1 April, 2008 to 31 March, 2009; and

(c) who is responsible for such serious lapse of not resorting to recruitment inspite of sanctioned strength?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF RAILWAYS (SHRI E. AHAMMED): (a) In a large organization like Indian Railways, vacancies are likely to exist at any point of time. The policy of the government is to fill up these vacancies promptly. General Managers have been instructed to place indents with Railway Recruitment Boards to fill up Group 'C' vacancies and Railway Recruitment Cells to fill up Group 'D' vacancies.

(b) As per figures available in Ministry of Railways, a total number of 47,068 vacancies were filled on the Indian Railways from 1 April, 2008 to 31 March, 2009.

(c) Creation and filling of vacancies is a continuous process. Action has been taken by the Railways as necessary from time to time.